

departed". On those other occasions in which the persons are still living, they are invited to make a few remarks. I can't tell you how happy I am to be here before you today.

We are here as a result of our lead gift for this recreation center. That was possible because we are living the American dream. From a very modest beginning of our marriage, we have worked hard, been lucky, and have enjoyed the encouragement and support of family and friends, many of whom are here today. We were fortunate enough to own our own business, sell it, and retire early. We do live in the greatest nation on Earth that is truly good and provides many opportunities.

Fran and I are so pleased to be a part of this great effort. We have been inspired and encouraged by the leadership of the Marshes, Ann K., the McClains, Isabelle Bram, and others in sharing their time and resources with the needs of the girls here. We are pleased and proud to be able to do this and hope that this might influence and encourage others to support Girlstown as much as they can.

We are particularly pleased that our gift was for the recreation center. Sports play such an important part in all our lives, but especially in the development of young people. Not only is this the largest structure on the campus, beautifully designed, and well built although it is all those things; but it is perhaps an apt symbol of what we try to teach all our children—those at home and those here.

Sports teach us that we get along better in life if we learn to play by the rules. Wherever we are in our society, we learn that there are certain expectations of behavior. There are rules in the workplace, rules of the road and rules of personal demeanor and behavior. The sooner we learn to take responsibility for our actions by respecting and abiding by those rules, the better we are able to get along.

Sports, whether recreational or competitive, teach us to do our best. Coaches in any sport certainly know the fundamentals of the game they are playing, but what makes a great coach is having the ability to motivate others to do their very best. If these young ladies can learn to motivate themselves to improve at whatever they are doing—to strive to do their best at every endeavour, that may be the best tool for the building of character. Those that spend their lives looking for happiness seldom find it. If they spend their lives pursuing excellence, they can lead productive and rewarding lives.

The other great lesson that sports will teach us is teamwork. Once we learn to depend on others and let them depend on us, then achievements multiply. There are very few efforts that don't improve geometrically as we approach them as a team. The results of teamwork are always greater than the sum of the individual efforts of those involved. It is through working and giving together, to the best of our abilities, that we are able to build this campus, continue to improve it, and continue to add to it.

A group of girls once gathered for their annual hike in the woods. Taking off at sunrise, the group commenced a fifteen mile trek through some of the most scenic grounds in the country. About midmorning, the girls came across an abandoned section of railroad track. Each in turn, tried to walk the narrow rails, but after only a few unsteady steps each lost her balance and fell off.

Two of the girls, after watching one after the other fall off the iron rail, offered a bet

to the rest of the group. The two bet that they could both walk the entire length of the railroad track without falling off even once.

The others laughed and said "no way". Challenged to make good on their boast, the two girls jumped up on the opposite rails, simply reached out and held hands to balance each other and steadily walked the entire section of the track with no difficulty.

How easy it was, simply by working together as a team. When people help each other, freely and voluntarily, there is a spirit of teamwork that can conquer a multitude of problems. When we don't cooperate, the whole system can fall apart.

So remember: play by the rules, do your best, reach out—and never quit holding hands.

#### COMMON SENSE PROTECTIONS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 2000

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 1999*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today we introduce the Common Sense Protection for Endangered Species Act of 2000. My efforts to improve and update the Endangered Species Act date back over my entire 26 years of service in the House of Representatives. The Endangered Species Act or the ESA, was originally adopted in 1973, with the goal of protecting those species of fish, wildlife and plants that were in danger of extinction. However, over the last 26 years the ESA has gotten off course. It is now in danger of foundering in a sea of bureaucratic abuse and misuse.

The Committee on Resources has held over 25 hearings on the impacts of the Endangered Species Act since I became the Chairman. We have heard hundreds of witnesses testify regarding the misuse of this law for purposes that have nothing to do with protecting wildlife. We know that there are 1,197 U.S. species listed as endangered or threatened, yet no species has recovered due to actions taken under the Endangered Species Act. The ESA is a failure, when it is judged solely on the basis of the number of species recovered and it is a failure when you realize that it punishes those private property owners who do the most to protect wildlife on their property. We need to turn this failure into a success story and we can do that through the application of some basic common sense principles.

First, we need to return more authority and responsibility for wildlife protection back to the states. The states have primary responsibility for wildlife and plants within their borders. The states have done the best job of managing their own wildlife. State programs to restore depleted species of game through good scientific management have been a resounding success. Species such as wild turkey, deer, elk, mountain lions, bear, and countless others managed by the states are becoming so plentiful that their numbers are now considered too plentiful in some areas.

Almost every state has its own endangered and threatened species program. Most of the states are doing a better job than the federal

government at protecting endangered species and they are doing it in a common sense fashion, unlike some of our federal agencies. However, we seem to be imposing the greatest number of federal resources in those states that have had the best endangered species programs. The State of California, under the leadership of former governor Pete Wilson, developed an endangered species program that is as stringent as the federal program and is the best funded state ESA program in the country, yet we have spent more federal ESA funds in California than in any other state. We need to insure that our scarce federal resources are used in those areas that need federal help—not in those states that are doing a good job. Let's stop duplicating the state's good work and let them do what they do best—manage their own wildlife.

Second, it is absolutely imperative that when a new species is added to the list of endangered and threatened species, that the science used to justify that listing is accurate and adequate. We need to improve the quality of the scientific data used to list species. We can only do that by requiring the agency to use good science, not just whatever science happens to be available at the time a petition is received to list a species. When a species is listed that is not really endangered or threatened with extinction, there are severe economic consequences for local communities and for affected private property owners. This should be avoided through the use of well-founded science.

Thirdly, we need to be fair to landowners who are affected by the listing of endangered species. Most endangered species are found on private lands. Private landowners need to be given incentives and rewards for protecting endangered and threatened species. Unfortunately, the ESA has been used against landowners to deprive them of the right to use their own property and to demand both land and money from affected landowners. The federal agencies that administer the ESA have been given extraordinary powers which they are using to force landowners to set aside "in perpetuity", huge amounts of privately owned lands that can only be used for one purpose—the protection of the public's wildlife and plant species. This type of treatment only discourages other landowners from providing habitat for wildlife.

We need to guarantee the public's right to know what the federal government is going to require for the protection of endangered species. The public and affected landowners should be included at every step in the process and should have a right to be heard and to have their questions answered about what kinds of new regulations the government may be proposing.

Fourth, we need to insure that when federal agencies' activities affect endangered species that the species are protected, but also those agencies need to fulfill their primary missions. We have seen examples of our military unable to prepare for the national defense because of the presence of endangered species on military lands. Flood control projects are delayed over many years resulting in ever increasing damage from floods. Much needed roads, bridges, and other transportation projects are stopped or delayed. Entire forests are closed

to harvesting while timber workers are left unemployed. The list goes on and on.

We must insure that the government keeps its promises to private property owners. The Fish and Wildlife Service has issued over 250 permits to various landowners for the use of their property. We need to insure that the federal government does not ignore those permits and demand even greater amounts of land and money in the future during the term of those agreements.

Fifth, we must recover the populations of species and then be sure they are taken off the lists of endangered species. Under the current ESA, the federal agencies list species and then never remove them from the lists even when their populations increase dramatically. This is unacceptable. The federal government must work with the local community and affected landowners to develop workable recovery plans for species. The federal government must then keep its word to delist species when the communities make concessions to recover species.

Our bill, the Common Sense Protections for Endangered Species Act of 2000 would bring back basic common sense solutions to help achieve all these goals. It would:

1. Improve the listing process by involving and relying upon the expertise of States.

2. Improve petitions and listing investigations and insure greater public participation in the listing process.

3. It would require the use of peer reviewed science to support the listing of species.

4. It would reduce conflicts and economic dislocation caused by federal agency shut downs and provide deadlines for agency decision making. It would insure that agencies fulfill their missions and provide a faster and surer method of resolving conflicts between agencies. It would insure that public safety will be protected.

5. It would allow affected citizens a full opportunity to participate in consultations; discuss the impacts of a biological opinion and any proposed alternatives, receive information on the biological opinion; and receive a copy of the draft biological opinion prior to its issuance.

6. It would prevent abusive and excessive demands on private landowners for their land and money as a condition of getting an ESA permit from the federal government and require reasonable deadlines for making permit decisions. It would insure that conservation agreements are binding on all parties to the agreement.

7. It would make recovery planning an inclusive process and would allow the Secretary to delegate to the states the development and implementation of recovery plans. Designation of critical habitat would become part of the recovery process. It would insure that recovery results in the delisting of species.

While I would personally prefer to make even more improvements in the ESA, I feel that these changes will be a good first start toward bringing back a common sense and reasonable approach to our federal government's efforts to recover species. I fully support protecting the rights of private property owners and believe that you can't protect wildlife unless you protect property owners. I also recognize that in order to achieve any goal, you

have to take a first step. This is our first step toward Common Sense Protections for Endangered Species.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 1999

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 1999, legislation to combat trafficking in human beings, a form of modern day slavery. Thirty-four Members of Congress are original co-sponsors of this bill. I commend my colleagues for lending their bi-partisan support to this legislation, which seeks to combat in the United States and countries around the world one of the worst human rights violations of our time.

More than one million people, predominantly women and children, are trafficked around the world each year. U.S. Intelligence Agencies estimate that 45-50,000 women and children are trafficked annually into the United States, primarily from the Former Soviet Union and Southeast Asia.

Trafficking networks, dominated by organized criminal groups, lure or force victims into the industry using various schemes. Traffickers buy young girls from relatives, kidnap children from their homes, or allure women with false promises of earning money overseas as dancers, maids, factory workers, sales clerks or models. Traffickers then use tactics including rape, starvation, torture, extreme physical brutality and psychological abuse to force victims to work under slavery-like conditions as prostitutes, in sweatshops, or as domestic servants.

Trafficking in human beings is a multi-billion dollar industry that is growing at an alarming rate. Consequently, the United States must act now to combat all forms of trafficking and protect and assist trafficking victims. This legislation employs a domestic and international approach to this effort because we cannot stop trafficking into the United States if we do not address the root causes of this phenomenon in countries around the world.

The Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 1999 strengthens prosecution and enforcement tools against traffickers operating in the United States and expands existing services to meet the needs of domestic trafficking victims. This legislation also works through our international affairs agencies to help other countries prevent trafficking, protect victims, and enforce their own anti-trafficking laws. The bill creates an Inter-Agency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, comprised of cabinet level members and chaired by the Secretary of State, and requires expanded coverage on trafficking in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Finally, this legislation establishes a humanitarian, non-immigrant visa classification for trafficking victims in the United States and gives the President discretionary authority to impose sanctions against countries and individuals involved in trafficking.

Please join me and my colleagues in supporting the Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 1999.

#### THE SITUATION IN ARMENIA

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 1999*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked and deeply saddened by the brutal assassinations of top Armenian officials this morning, as well as the continuing hostage crisis currently taking place in the Armenian Parliament. My heart goes out to the families of the victims and to all Armenians. We must not permit these senseless acts to hinder the progress made by Prime Minister Sarkisian and his late colleagues in furthering democracy in Armenian. In the face of these unspeakable atrocities, the United States must reaffirm its commitment to supporting the Republic of Armenia in her pursuit of a lasting democracy and enduring peace.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE AGRIBUSINESS MERGER MORATORIUM ACT

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 1999*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agribusiness Merger Moratorium Act of 1999. I am honored to have Judiciary Committee Member TAMMY BALDWIN and my colleague on the Agriculture Committee, DAVID MINGE, join me as original cosponsors of this important legislation. Our legislation is very similar to the Senate legislation that was introduced recently by Senators WELLSTONE, DORGAN, HARKIN, and DASCHLE.

Unfortunately, the agriculture sector of our economy has experienced rapid consolidation, disrupting the competitive dynamic of the market place. Today, concentration is more prevalent than ever in agriculture as we have observed with the recent acquisitions of Continental Grain by Cargill and the Smithfield Foods merger with Murphy Family Farms. For example, if the proposed acquisition of Continental Grain by Cargill is allowed with the divestitures set forth in the proposed consent decree, Cargill will handle more than 25 percent of the all of the Nation's export markets.

To illustrate the degree of concentration in agriculture processing, in 1999, 80 percent of beef cattle are slaughtered by only four meat packers, 75 percent of sheep are processed by only four firms, and 60 percent of hogs are slaughtered by only four firms. At the same time concentration has been drastically increasing, a farmer's share of every food dollar spent decreased from 37 cents to 23 cents from 1980 to 1998.

The Agribusiness Merger Moratorium Act of 1999 is a short-term legislative response to the rapid consolidation that I have described. This legislation would establish an 18-month